

Competitions Commission Meeting

Saturday 10th January 2015

SportPark, Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

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| Minutes prepared by | : | Will Westwood |
| Circulation | : | Competition Commission |
| Distribution | : | From Paul Bohannon |

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| Commissioners present and apologies for absence | | |
| | Paul Bohannon | Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner |
| | Sarah Hill | Division 3 Women's Commissioner |
| | Lenny Barry | National Cup Commissioner |
| | Martin Shakespeare | Referee Liaison |
| | Brian Kendall | U15 Commissioner |
| | Rob Cook | International Competitions and Events Director |
| | Will Westwood | Competitions Officer |
| | Jonathan Moore | Competitions Manager |
| 1. | Apologies | |
| | Bill Boagey | Division 1 Commissioner |
| | Ian Cheesbrough | Division 2 Women's Commissioner |
| | Kevin Hamblin | Division 3 Men Commissioner |
| | Ade Mcgraa | Student Cup Commissioner |
| | Keith McAdam | Division 2 Men Commissioner |
| | Rohan West | Participation Director |
| | Laurence Shenker | Competitions Administrator |

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:15

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| 2. | Minutes of Previous Meeting Previous minutes were circulated. | |
| 3. | Matters Arising Refereeing in the National League PB followed up with Steve Evans regarding the number of and difficulty in sourcing referees for all NVL fixtures. It was previously suggested that some other foreign leagues run matches with 1 referee rather than 2. The commission agreed that they would not be comfortable with that coming into practice in England. Refcom are to begin a new system whereby they regularly check in with newly qualified referees to gauge how they feel they are progressing. | |

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| | <p>It was agreed that due to the increase in teams entering the NVL the shortage of referees is highlighted further. The example of Kernow who were allowed to join the NVL when there is only 1 registered referee in their county was given. The question was asked whether there should be a minimum requirement with regards to referee availability in a team's area in order to join the NVL. There was no answer provided for this question. The Referee Commission are aware of the problem and are attempting to find solutions.</p> <p>International Transfers – approximately 15 players have been unable to register across Super 8s and Division 1 purely down to fees. In contrast, approximately the same number of players have completed an International Transfer across the Super 8s and Division 1 compared to last season. There has been 8 non-EU players who have paid their 1000 Swiss francs to play in the Super 8s this season. Regulations haven't been published for next year so we're not in a position to advise with regards to fees for next season.</p> <p>Portas Review – Small focus groups are continuing to work on the review but with no new update as of yet.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Items for Ratification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) FIVB Rule changes – agreed not to implement this season. Rule changes will come into effect as of the 1st September. (ii) Super 8 Transfer dispute was settled. (iii) NVC isn't available on one of this season's competition weekends. NVL Playoffs will be 17th May 2015. U15 Finals will be on 23rd May 2015. | WW/LS to circulate to teams and publish on website |
| 5. | <p>Calendar 2015-16</p> <p>A number of changes discussed at the previous meeting, one of which was to change the NVL start date to 16th October in line with ITC regulations as that is when they come into play. It's been agreed that we won't change our season start date, so the NVL will begin on 19/20th September. It was agreed that both MC1 and WC1 would be put on 13th September.</p> <p>It was agreed that a prelim date for the U18 on the 26th/27th September would be added to the calendar.</p> <p>19th/20th Dec & 2nd/3rd Jan NVL weekends moved. All National League weekends are moved forward. Both previously mentioned weekends are freed up or fixtures. U15's & NVL playoffs will move to 14th/15th May 2016.</p> <p>Cup Finals currently clashes with AOC Finals on 2nd/3rd April.</p> | JM to circulate revised calendar |
| 7. | <p>Competitions review</p> <p>RC explained the current status of the competitions review, and that it's looking to implement any agreed changes for the 2016-17 season. Various departments and members have had input, taking into account feedback from many areas on the business.</p> <p>RC led a conversation regarding the format of junior competitions such as the School Games and U15's Championships. The review will look deeper at whether the format of such competitions are 4v4 or remain at 6v6. The findings and suggestions will be circulated once the review has been completed.</p> <p>A conversation took place whereby it was explained that discussions with YST are taking place in order to decide upon the correct format for the School Games.</p> | |

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| | <p>The current range of Volleyball formats and resources was shown and explained to the room by RC. It was asked whether the current format is the correct path and should Volleyball look at reducing the number of formats it promotes and look closer at creating resources for only a couple of age groups? The room discussed the future of Junior competitions and the required format to increase participation at a younger age. It was agreed that all future changes will depend upon the results of the Review.</p> <p>A discussion took place concerning the format of the Super 8s. It was suggested that there be an outright winner of the Super 8s and then a winner of the playoffs. No conclusion was agreed.</p> | |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Competitions Update</p> <p>Supers 8s- all scheduled matches have taken place, one replay between Wessex BU and City of Sheffield due to a refereeing mistake.</p> <p>A paper on behalf of the Talent Team with regards to creating an opportunity for the Junior Men's team to play competitive matches against the Super 8s teams was presented. The proposal was that each Super 8s team would play the Junior Men's team on a National Squads weekend once during the season. The request was that the Commission supports this initiative and provides a platform for competition for the Junior Men. It was made clear that the squads would only play the home games so therefore could not become a permanent member of the division. The commission agreed that teams would need to be incentivised/ encouraged/ compensated to play the fixtures. Everyone agreed in principle that we need to assist the Junior Men's team to develop and playing the Super 8s would be a step in the right direction. The issue was raised that some Junior Men's players would be in effect playing for two NVL teams. To accommodate this, an alteration in the regulations could be made. If this initiative was a success then this would encourage the Junior Women to play the respective Women Super 8s teams. The Talent team are to enquire what a suitable travel bursary would be and then advise on their proposed level of compensation. They could then decide whether this was a viable idea. The room agreed that the Talent Team need to further investigate how this would work. JM is to go back to Talent and explain to them the concerns the commission has and for them to return with a revised proposal.</p> <p>NVL Report – It was confirmed that Division Commissioners when issuing late match confirmation fines informed the teams that they are being fined. It was suggested that whostheref should be emailing home teams three weeks in advance of their home fixtures telling them who their referees are for the upcoming home fixture. This would act as a reminder for teams to send out their match confirmation. This would however be dependent on team's checking whostheref.</p> <p>A conversation took place concerning the rearranging of fixtures without the knowledge of Referees Commission and the respective Division Commissioners. It was explained that there are continued struggles when looking to appoint referees to certain games, as weekends are being overloaded with extra fixtures. It was agreed than when replying to requests from teams to rearrange fixture dates, Commissioners would copy MS in and inform teams that they might struggle to get a referee due to other fixtures on this date.</p> <p>Competitions agreed to inform Division Commissioners when there has been a fixture not completed within their Division.</p> <p>Cup/Shield- record entry in the Cup which had a knock on effect on the Shield. More forfeits this year than we've had for a while. Fines issued for the majority of teams who withdrew at very short notice. A conversation was had asking whether we have the scope through fines received to help the home team pay for their booking when an away team withdraws from a fixture? This was opposed on the basis that teams would be paying for the</p> | <p>JM to discuss with Talent the outcomes of the meeting and ask Talent Team to revise their proposal. This would then go back to the Commission at the next Meeting.</p> <p>Competitions inform Division Commissioners when fixtures in the NVL have not been completed.</p> |

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| | <p>hall hire and can use the hall for 'training' if no fixture took place. It was agreed by some that the income brought in by fines is used towards aiding clubs who have had fixtures cancelled at short notice. No definitive conclusion was made on this proposal.</p> <p>A concern was voiced regarding teams not sending through match confirmations especially when rearranging fixtures. The concern was based on teams not applying the required regulations properly. It was proposed that regulations directly concerning the Cup are to be put into a small document and given to non-NVL teams to ensure that they are aware of the requirements of them during the cup/shield. No confirmation of this was made. The conversation moved on with action confirmed.</p> <p>Student Cup- all ran fine, lack of referees at Kettering round. A suggestion made was using newly qualified referees for qualifying rounds as this will provide much needed experience. The opposition to this was that there would be no one to observe and mentor the referees during the competition days. The Finals are 7th-8th February 2015 at UEL. 88 teams took part and we are now down to the final 32.</p> <p>U15- entries close on Monday 12th, entries already up on last year. Entries at the time of Commission meeting was 31 Girls and 29 Boys (This has since risen to 40 Girls and 29 Boys)</p> <p>U16- Last 8s are in March. 26 Girls Teams and 23 Boys Teams entered.</p> <p>U18- Last 8s took place on 13th December. 23 Women's teams and 20 Men's Teams for 14 clubs. The competition has run successfully through to the Finals. Tameside beat Graveney Malory Eagles and Wessex beat Academy of Beach Sports. The men's side saw Wessex beat Chadwell Heath and Boswells beat Ernest Bevin. Both finals take place on the 29th March 2015.</p> <p>U18 Grand Prix- The first Grand Prix takes place on the 7th February and the second is on the 1st March 2015.</p> <p>Inter Regionals – Scheduled for 2nd-4th May 2015. Charlie Orton is speaking to regions to see how many entrants there will be. Wales and Northern Ireland have been invited to ensure enough teams will be participating.</p> <p>Sitting Grand Prix – To date a total of 10 teams have taken part. 3 Grand Prix are complete. The 4th will take place on Saturday 25th January 2015. The Sitting Volleyball Cup takes place on Sunday 22nd March 2015 alongside the U15 Divisional round and the Semi- Finals of Sitting Grand Prix. JM explains that the introduction of the cup is to ensure more teams/people are playing Sitting Volleyball which can be reported back to Sport England. 3 new teams have entered the Grand Prix this season.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Regulation Changes</p> <p>The Commission were made aware that pre-match protocol in Europe dictates that teams shake hands before the game as well as after. Competitions/ Referees Commission to review shaking hands before the game.</p> <p>The next topic brought up was that of Technical timeouts outside the Super 8s. The buzzer is only to be pressed if both teams are ready. If this is not the case, the full minute is to be played out.</p> <p>The question is asked whether there is a value outside of the Super 8s for having technical timeouts. It was explained that the Coaching Commission are in favour of technical timeouts. Referees are to be instructed that in a triangular, if there have been two previous 5 set matches, Technical Timeouts are to be left out of the third match. The Commission agreed to review whether technical timeouts are to be taken out of NVL Divisions 1-3</p> | <p>PB to contact coaches and Referee Commissions to ask their opinions on removing technical timeouts. Their responses will then be circulated.</p> |

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| | <p>and out of the National Cup. PB will contact the other Commissions and get their views on the matter. This will then be circulated.</p> <p>Any further regulation changes are to be sent to PB so he can review them.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>NVL Registration cards</p> <p>It was proposed that we stop producing player cards and move to an online system. This would mean all people associated with a team are listed on that team's page on the VE website. Will save time and cost in producing and posting the cards. All agreed this was a good idea. Each team would print their own information and bring to each game. This would be implemented for the 2015-16 season.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>MVP Awards</p> <p>PB circulated data provided by LS. The purpose of the research is to highlight 'what is an MVP?' The conversation questioned whether it was preferable to have a 'Team of the year'. It is the teams that are wanting a review of the system to highlight the stand out players. LS is continuing analysis of MVP votes highlighting whether the player was on the winning team in each fixture. The commission discussed asking teams to rank the top voted players in a 1, 2, 3 order who would then be shortlisted for the award. This was agreed by the commission to bring it in next season (2015-16)</p> | <p>LS to continue MVP award analysis and present to PB upon completion of the current NVL season.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Date of next two meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th May 2015 SportPark, Loughborough • 13th September 2015, Loughborough | <p>WW to book rooms</p> |
| 13. | <p>Any other business</p> <p>PB circulated the Coaches Commission's response on qualified coaches per division sent to Competitions Commission. The room questioned whether the response answered the fundamental questions of current coaching levels and their progression. The Commission discussed the relevance of having a certain level qualified coach per team. It was agreed that the lead on this matter should be the teams. They should want to have a highly qualified coach rather than being dictated to.</p> <p>U18 GP- details forwarded to all with regards to some teams feeling that it's currently not a worthwhile competition in its current format due to the gap in standard between the top and bottom 4. The idea proposed by teams is to have two separate competitions on different days where the 'bottom' four play each other and the 'top' four play each other. This would allow teams to play more competitive matches against teams of similar ability. JM proposed asking the teams for their opinions at the next Grand Prix. A discussion took place regarding the correct age group for this type of competition. It was agreed that there would be no change for this year's Grand Prix but teams would be consulted for next year's competition.</p> | <p>WW/PB to consult teams in the Grand Prix regarding the format of the competition for future years.</p> |